CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1234
5 January 1994

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LETTER DATED 20 DECEMBER 1993 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 23 STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE

We are writing to you in relation to your special responsibility for the conduct of informal consultations to reach consensus on the expansion of the membership of the Conference in the period before its next session in January 1994.

The efforts you have so far made to achieve this outcome, and your consultations with us, are very much appreciated. We offer our continued cooperation in the period ahead.

Full participation as members in the Conference on Disarmament from 1994 is, as you know, a matter of the highest priority for our Governments. A prompt decision on the expansion of the Conference is the more important in light of the forthcoming negotiations to achieve a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty capable of attracting universal adherence.

In this regard the First Committee's adoption by consensus on 19 November of Egypt's resolution on the work of the Conference on Disarmament which includes the membership issue, is welcome. We note that the Fifth Committee has now approved the call for additional services in that resolution.

The General Assembly has now adopted without a vote the First Committee resolution. It urges the Conference on Disarmament to reach consensus on the expansion of its membership before the start of its 1994 session.

We would appreciate being kept fully informed of the steps taken in order to bring the expansion process to a successful conclusion. This will assist our preparations for membership of the Conference. We should, accordingly, like to meet you early in the new year to discuss progress on this subject.

As the expansion of the Conference is the concern of all member States, we should be grateful if you would circulate to them this letter, and arrange for its distribution as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.94-60015 (E)

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